

Message Text

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: SCUL, UR

SUBJECT: CSCE AND MULTIPLE VISAS FOR JOURNALISTS

REF: STATE 204833

1. DURING EVENTS SURROUNDING OPENING OF METROPOLITAN ART EXHIBIT, LEONARD MARKS AND I BOTH SPOKE WITH MINISTER OF CULTURE P.N. DEMICHEV AND DEPUTY MINISTER V.I. POPOV ABOUT MULTIPLE ENTRY VISAS FOR JOURNALISTS. DEMICHEV, AFTER CONFIRMING THAT U.S. WOULD GRANT RECIPROCITY, INDICATED THAT FAVORABLE REACTION WOULD BE FORTHCOMING "SHORTLY".

2. DURING MEETING WITH MARKS YESTERDAY (AUGUST 28), AMBASSADOR Y.I. VOLSKIY, CHIEF OF MFA CULTURAL DIVISION, WASKBLI LBIVKX ABOUT VISA SITUATION. VOLSKIY SAID HE DIDN'T KNOW DETAILS, SINCE MATTER BEING "STUDIED IN ANOTHER OFFICE," BUT IT WOULD "UNDOUBTEDLY BE SOLVED IN NEAR FUTURE."

3. POLITICAL COUNSLOR AUGUST 29 REPEATED POINTS CONTAINED REFTTEL TO MFA COUNSELOR S.B. CHETVERIKOV OF USA DIVISION AND, REFERRING TO OUR CONVERSATION WITH DEMICHEV, INQUIRED AS TO WHEN AN ANSWER COULD BE EXPECTED TO NOTE ON MULTIPLE VISAS FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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JOURNALISTS. CHETVERIKOV SAID HE WAS NOT AWARE OF DEMICHEV'S

VIEWS OR OF ANY DECISION AS YET.

4. PRESUMABLY AS A RESULT OF CALL TO CHETVERIKOV AND MENTION OF DEMICHEV, DEPUTY MINISTER POPOV TOOK MARKS AND ME ASIDE AFTER HIS LUNCHEON TODAY (AUGUST 29) FOR MARKS AND STRESSED THAT DEMIVHEV HAD NOT INTENDED TO STATE THAT DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED ON VISA QUESTION. POPOV REITERATED THAT MATTER WAS UNDER CONSIDERATION AND SAID HE HOPED FOR RESOLUTION SOON. WHILE GENERALLY OPTIMISTIC IN TONE, HE NOTED THAT "FURTHER TALKS" PROBABLY WOULD BE REQUIRED ON "THIS AND OTHER QUESTIONS." POPOV SEEMED MAINLY CONCERNED THAT DEMICHEV'S NAME NOT BE MENTIONED IN ANY COMMENT TO U.S. JOURNALISTS ABOUT VISA PROBLEM.

5. COMMENT: IT SEEMS EVIDENT VISA MATTER IS UNDER ACTIVE STUDY. WHETHER DEMIVHEV'S POSITIVE RESPONSE REFLECTS ACCURATE FORECAST OF OUTCOME REMAINS TO BE SEEN.
STOESSEL

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